

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 PA-01 /027 W

----- 044962

P R 171251Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2054

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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FOR MEPD

REF: (A) LAGOS 10581 (B) LAGOS 10635 (C) STATE 259670

SUMMARY: A NEW NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION (NRC) TENDER (TEXT SEPTTEL) FOR TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS OF THE ABOVE PROJECT ONLY SHOULD BE TREATED BY INTERESTED FIRMS AS A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE SYSTEM-WIDE REBUILDING DISCUSSED REFTELS. NEW TENDER APPEARS, IN EFFECT, TO RE-OPEN SHORT LIST BY INVITING "RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION GROUPS" TO APPLY. TAMS RPT RAMS HEADQUARTERS HESITANT. END SUMMARY.

1. NRC TENDER SUBMITTED SEPTTEL FOR TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS OF THE PROPOSED NEW OTURKPO-AJAKUTA RAIL LINE TO THE PROPOSED NIGER RIVER STEEL MILL ATTRACTIVE IN OWN RIGHT AND AS PILOT PROJECT FOR SYSTEM-WIDE REBUILDING REFTELS. IT CONFIRMS MUCH OF LAGOS 10581. IN BRIEFING COMPANIES FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE STRESSED.

2. THIS PROJECT ALONE QUITE ATTRACTIVE. IT IS FIRST NEW RAIL CONSTRUCTION HERE SINCE 1965. ROUTE CHALLENGING, SWAMPY IN PLACES AND, SINCE STEEL SITE ON WEST BANK OF NIGER, WHICH QUITE BROAD AND SHALLOW, LINE PROBABLY WILL INCLUDE LARGE BRIDGE. LINE WILL OPEN UP REMOTE AREA TO DEVELOPMENT WITH LIKELIHOOD OF MORE PROJECTS TO COME. NATIONAL STEEL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NSDA), FOR EXAMPLE, PLANS NEW TOWN FOR STEEL MILL AT AJAKUTA, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS NOW MERE VILLAGE. FINALLY, IT SEEMS LOGICAL TO EXPECT EXTENSIN OF

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LINE WEST TO CONNECT WITH LAGOS-KADUNA MAIN LINE SOMEDAY TO ELIMI-

NATE NEARLY 1000 MILES FROM LAGOS-PORT HARCOURT JOURNEY AND/OR POSSIBLY SHORTER EXTENSION UP NIGER TO BARO. (WE KNOW OF NO RPT NO PLANS FOR SUCH EXTENSIONS BUTY THEY LOGICAL).

3. THIS PROJECT IS NRC'S TOP PRIORITY SO SHOULD BE TREATED BY INTERESTED FIRMS AS PILOT PROJECT FOR SYSTEM-WIDE STANDARD GAUGE REBUILDING PROGRAM DISCUSSED REFTELS. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT OVERALL PROGRAM WILL BE TACKLED IN SEGMENTS AS IT TOO BIG TO ATTEMPT AS ONE PROJECT. FIRMS INTERESTED IN REBUILSING PROGRAM SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT.

4. SCOPE OF WORK THIS TENDER VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT FOR SYSTEM -WIDE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS (LAGOS 10635) EXCEPT FOR ADDITION OF REQUIREMENT FOR A "PHOTOGEOLOGICAL REPORT" TO INDICATE SOURCES OF BALLAST MATERIAL. IF THIS INVOLVES LANDSAT OR OTHER SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY AMERICAN FIRMS MIGHT BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM NASA RPT NASA ACTIVITIES THIS AREA.

5. TENDER'S INVITATION TO "RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION GROUPS" SEEMS CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION THAT NRC SEARCHING FOR TURNKEY, PROJECT MANAGER OR CONSORTIA. TENDER THUS SEEMS TO REOPEN SHORT LIST. MEPRD MIGHT THEREFORE BRING RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT SITUATION TO ATTENTION OF SUCH FIRMS AS M-K AND BECHTEL, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS INTERESTED IN MANAGING GIANT PROJECTS HERE.

6. FOLLOWING PROPRIETARY; F. STANLEY GLYNN, TAMS RPT TAMS DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AND WEST AFRICA, RETURNED NOV. 16 FROM TWO-WEEK CLOSE INSPECTION TOUR OF VIRTUALLY ENTIRE RAIL SYSTEM AND PROPOSED AJOKUTA LINE. HE RODE TRAINS, RAILCARS, JITNEYS, MET LINE PERSONNEL AND PROBABLY KNOWS MORE ABOUT NRC NOW THAN ANY FOREIGN ENGINEER. HE THINKS TAMS IN VERY GOOD POSITION WITH NRC NOW BUT REPORTS THAT TAMS NEW YORK HESITANT ABOUT SURVEY PROJECTS. GLYNN, WHO WILL RETURN TO NEW YORK IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, WILLING SHARE INFORMATION WITH USG AND OTHER FIRMS. END PROPRIETARY.

7. FOREGOING ANSWERS MOST QUESTIONS REF C. WE HOPE SEE NRC NEXT WEEK FOR MORE DETAILS AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY NEW QUESTIONS PRIOR NOV. 26, REQUEST FOREGOING BE PROVIDED INTERESTED FIRMS AND THEY BE ADVISED THAT MAINLAND HOTEL BEST SITUATED FOR VISITING NRC NEARBY. EMBASSY CANNOT MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS. TAMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMAINS ONLY US FIRM IN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY ON RAIL PROJECTS.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RAILROADS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, GEODETIC SURVEYS, PROPOSALS (BID), PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS01329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750399-0956
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751137/aaaabgsx.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS 10581, 75 LAGOS 10635, 75 STATE 259670
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EINV, EFIN, NI
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006